markets of their own, which may be licensed under the provisions of the Cochin Municipal and Sanitary Regulation.

11. In clause (3) of para 2 of the Diwan's Proceedings, we have been asked to indicate in our Report in the order of urgency the works to be taken up. Those that are really urgent have been noted as such in the remarks column of the talukwar statements."

The Manner of Answering Questions.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

A point of order. I waited till the last day of this session and till the last hour to raise this point. There are several questions that have been sent up with reference to particular subjects, and the answers have been given piecemeal. It is the ruling of our President that our questions should be fully answered. Under the circumstances, the question is whether the Government is at liberty to answer questions piecemeal. That is a very important point for us. We are asking for information for the purpose of elucidating a particular subject with which we are dealing, and though we put a certain number of questions—which, though numbered altogether, are published piecemeal with their answers—we will not be in a position to get the exact information. When the questions are split into several parts, and only one or two answers are given every day, we do not get the advantage of falling upon all the answers to the questions.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

There are a number of questions which have yet to be answered.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

For instance, with reference to the Anappara Leper Asylum, I had sent in a number of questions, but I find some are still to be answered. I ask you, Sir, whether it is fair to treat us in this way. Out of the questions sent by us on a particular subject, a few only are answered in this session, and even those that are answered are not answered on one and the same day. If they are not ready, let them not answer them. I understand from the Secretary to the Diwan that questions on a particular subject have to be answered in most cases by various departments, and the answers do not come in together from the various departments, and the answers that come in are entered in the answer papers. That, I submit, need not be done. It is an unsatisfactory procedure.

PRESIDENT.

One thing I may say; the questions are not divided. The questions, as they are received, are sent to the departments concerned in order that proper materials may be furnished to the Government for preparing the answer. I do not understand what you mean by saying that the questions are divided.

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Mr. A. B. SALEM.

I will tell you, Sir. Now, I send up 12 questions, numbered 1 to 12, on a particular subject. The Government supplies me with answers, say for 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and so on. Here you will find that the object of putting the question is not served, because, only if I can get the answers for the 12 questions, I can proceed further. I want my questions to be answered in a lot.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

I had put a certain number of questions to be answered in the budget session regarding the Tattamangalam Ayurvedic Dispensary. Some questions were answered during the last meeting, and some in this meeting, and some are still pending. My intention was to compare the expenses of the Ayurvedic Dispensary and that of an Allopathic Dispensary. Since I was not supplied with the necessary answers then and there, I was not able to put the necessary supplementary questions. This is due to the answering of my questions piecemeal.

PRESIDENT.

Sub-divisions under main questions which are brought together may be answered fully at the same time. That is one thing that I can undertake to do. Is there anything else?

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Questions relating to one and the same subject may be taken together, and answers supplied at one and the same time.

PRESIDENT.

Questions may be coming in, while answers are prepared. There may not be enough time to prepare answers for all the questions about a particular subject. We have to use our discrimination and find out which are the allied questions and which are not. We place before you the answers which have been got ready.

Dr. A. R. MENON.

Would you allow us to put supplementary questions on questions which have been answered previously? Besides, we put questions for getting certain information. When a member sends a question which embraces a number of sub-divisions a, b, c, or 1, 2, 3, it is not right to pick up a few and answer them, when so many questions are asked by way of elucidating a matter with regard to a subject.

PRESIDENT.

But members will be putting different questions, and to ask the Government to make a selection of all the allied questions and get the answers ready before the meeting is a very difficult task.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

In this connection, I would like to say that I had sent

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one question with regard to one general subject. There were several sub-divisions to that question. I was asked to recast that question. But I have sent a letter saying that all these sub-divisions relate to the same matter, and if the question is to be answered, it may be answered as a whole. I also prayed that, if all these questions cannot be answered consecutively, I had to point out that each of the sub-divisions relate only to a single matter. All these sub-divisions relate to one general subject. Questions relating to one general subject need not be reframed, and should be answered at one and the same time.

PRESIDENT.

Will you please explain what it is ?

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

There was one question in which he had asked several questions. There were a number of sub-divisions. Each of those related to different matters. So the President ruled that he may be asked to divide this question and send them up separately. The questions were sent to the member to be re-framed, and on receipt of the same, they were allowed by the President, and then they have been submitted to the Secretary to the Diwan.

PRESIDENT.

So they are not questions relating to one general matter?

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

They relate to one general matter.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Some of my questions related to one single matter.

RAO SAHIB Mr. T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR.

The member will give specific instances.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

Sir, with reference to Anappara, I put a string of questions, and I would have had great satisfaction if these had been answered, and I would have been able to show that a re-examination of the question was necessary. For instance, the objection was about the distance between Anappara and Trichur Town. Trichur got contaminated by having the Asylum in the neighbourhood. I put the question: "Will the Government be pleased to state how far is Anappara from Trichur Town, the distance from Ernakulam to Vendurutti, the distance between Vendurutti and Bolghatti ?" These questions were sub-divisions. These have not been answered.

PRESIDENT.

Are they not different questions ?

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

In the same question I asked the questions regarding the Anappara Leper Asylum and other Asylums of the State.

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PRESIDENT.

With reference to one subject, a number of questions were asked in one and the same question. The full information was not ready. Some questions had to be answered by the Medical Department, some by the Engineering Department and some by the Government itself. All the answers may be collected and presented together. That may be done.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

Sir, we see from the reports that questions not put by members are found published in the reports. Are we to take it that the President has ruled under Rule 13 that it is not necessary to *put* questions, and on the ground of public interests it has been done so? There are certain questions published as if answered, which were not read, the member being absent, when they were taken up. Are we to take it that those questions were answered by the Government? They are published, but legally they have not been answered.

PRESIDENT.

Under Rule 13, when a member is absent, the President may rule that an answer to a question in the statement of business for the day shall be given on the ground of public interests, even though the question is not put.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

The President has once ruled that, if a member is absent, his name shall not be called, and the question standing in his name shall remain unanswered. If he is present, the President has to see that that question is answered. We see so many questions published in the reports. In regard to the putting of a question, are we to take it that the question is not put, if the member is absent?

PRESIDENT.

What do you mean by saying that a question is not put? It is all for convenience that the Secretary reads "Question number so and so, Mr. C. A. Ouseph" and so on. If he is absent, the question is not put.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

Suppose I say, when the question is taken up, "I don't put the question". The proper method should be for the Secretary to note the absence of the members. He should not read those questions, unless the President directs that, in the interests of the public, it should be read.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

The practice in some Legislative Councils is to read the question and then the answer. Strictly speaking, we ought to put the question here. But we put the question 12 days before, so that Government may be ready with the answer.

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PRESIDENT.

You say that the Secretary ought to read the question?

Mr. M. K. RAMAN.

The member should rise and read the question. Then only the question is put, strictly speaking.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE.

That is not the practice anywhere.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

That is not the practice.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

There is one thing. Suppose the question is put, and then the answer is published, and suppose the member says "I don't want to ask the question now". He is now deprived of his right to say that he has not put the question. Even though I have given notice, according to Rule 13, I have a right not to put the question.

PRESIDENT.

The Secretary is bound to call questions in the order in which they stand, before any other business is entered upon at the meeting.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH.

If a member does not want to put the question, or if he is absent, the question goes, unless the President directs that the question should be answered.

PRESIDENT.

But is there any case in which a member says that he does not want to put the question? Then I will consider the matter. We have to call the question, according to Standing Order 11. In case he is absent, according to Standing Order 11, the Secretary will call the question. What are we to understand by the expression that a question is "put" or "not put"? According to Standing Order 11, the Secretary has to call the question. If he does not call the question, are we to decide that the question is not put? Following the practice of so many days, we find that he is calling out the questions.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

When a member says "I withdraw that question", when a question is called, what are we to do?

PRESIDENT.

Then I will exercise my right to rule whether it should be published or not. But before he calls the question, the member must say "I don't want my question to be put" or something

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like that. But the moment he calls the question, it must be taken that the question has been put.

The Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill.

PRESIDENT.

Well then, we come to the last stage in the passing of the Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

Sir, I beg to move that the Cochin Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill be taken up and passed at this meeting.

Mr.T. K. KRISHNA MENON.

Sir, I second it.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

May I know whether it is open to us to oppose a part of the Bill now, Sir?

PRESIDENT.

This is not the time to do so. You may either oppose or support the passing of the Bill. That is all. You cannot move any amendment.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

I want to know whether it is open to us to propose the deletion of a section.

Mr. K. ACHYUTA MENON.

That is an amendment to the Bill.

Mr. A. B. SALEM.

So it is only open to us to throw out the Bill.

The question that the Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill be passed was put to votes and carried.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon's Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON.

Sir, I beg to propose that the Bill to amend the Municipal Regulation be now taken up and passed.

Mr. CHAKKO CHERUVATHUR.

Sir, I second it.

The motion that the Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill be passed was put and carried.

Amendments to Standing Orders.

Dr. A. G. MENON.

Sir, I had sent in certain amendments. They are not seen in the agenda. I do not know whether they have been disallowed or allowed.

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